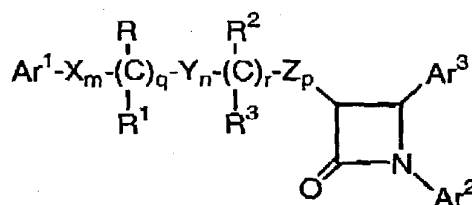


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) A composition comprising:
- (a) at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (I):



(I)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (I) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (I) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein in Formula (I) above:

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl and R^4 -substituted aryl;

Ar^3 is aryl or R^5 -substituted aryl;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{lower alkyl})-$ and $-\text{C}(\text{dilower alkyl})-$;

R and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of $-\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$ and $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$;

R^1 and R^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and aryl;

q is 0 or 1;

r is 0 or 1;

m, n and p are independently selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; provided that at least one of q and r is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, q and r is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and provided that when p is 0 and r is 1, the sum of m, q and n is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

R^4 is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$, $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6SO_2R^9$, $-COOR^6$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, $-(\text{lower alkylene})COOR^6$, $-CH=CH-COOR^6$, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$ and halogen;

R^5 is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$, $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6SO_2R^9$, $-COOR^6$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, $-(\text{lower alkylene})COOR^6$ and $-CH=CH-COOR^6$;

R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

R^9 is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl.

2. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator is a fibric acid derivative.

3. (Original) The composition according to claim 2, wherein the fibric acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of fenofibrate, clofibrate, gemfibrozil, ciprofibrate, bezafibrate, clinofibrate, binifibrate, lifibrol and mixtures thereof.

4. (Original) The composition according to claim 3, wherein the fibric acid derivative comprises fenofibrate.

5. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 3, wherein the fibric acid derivative comprises clofibrate.

6. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 3, wherein the fibric acid derivative comprises gemfibrozil.

7. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 3, wherein the fibric

acid derivative comprises ciprofibrate.

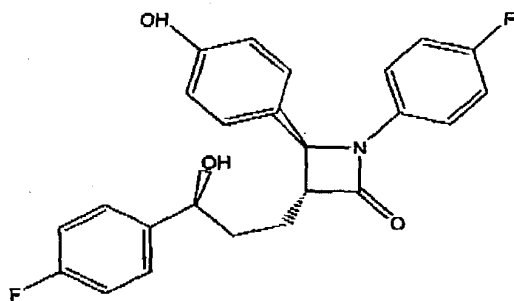
8. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 3, wherein the fibric acid derivative comprises bezafibrate.

9. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 3, wherein the fibric acid derivative comprises clinofibrate.

10. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 3, wherein the fibric acid derivative comprises binifibrate.

11. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator is administered to a mammal in an amount ranging from about 50 to about 3000 milligrams of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator per day.

12. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the sterol absorption inhibitor is represented by Formula (II) below:



(II)

or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or prodrug of the compound of Formula (II) or of the salt or solvate thereof.

13. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor is administered to a mammal in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to about 1000 milligrams of sterol absorption inhibitor per day.

14. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor.

15. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 14, wherein the at least one cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor comprises at least one HMG CoA reductase inhibitor.

16. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 15, wherein the at least one HMG CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of lovastatin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, simvastatin, atorvastatin, rosuvastatin, cerivastatin and mixtures thereof.

17. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 16, wherein the at least one HMG CoA reductase inhibitor is simvastatin.

18. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 12, further comprising simvastatin.

19. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator is selected from the group consisting of fenofibrate, gemfibrozil and mixtures thereof.

20. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one bile acid sequestrant.

21. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising nicotinic acid, niceritrol, nicofuranose or acipimoxer ~~a derivative thereof~~.

22. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one AcylCoA:Cholesterol *O*-acyltransferase Inhibitor.

23. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising probucol or a derivative thereof.

24. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one low-density lipoprotein receptor activator.

25. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one Omega 3 fatty acid.

26. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one natural water soluble fiber.

27. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one of plant sterols, plant stanols or fatty acid esters of plant stanols.

28. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one antioxidant or vitamin.

29. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one hormone replacement therapy composition.

30. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one obesity control medication.

31. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one blood modifier.

32. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one cardiovascular agent selected from the group consisting of calcium channel blockers, adrenergic blockers, adrenergic stimulants, angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, antihypertensive, angiotensin II receptor

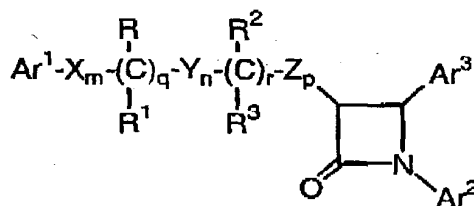
antagonists, anti-anginal agents, coronary vasodilators, diuretics and combinations thereof different from the compound of Formula I.

33. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one antidiabetic medication.

34. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment:

- (a) an effective amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) an effective amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (I):



or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (I) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (I) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof,

wherein in Formula (I):

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl and R^4 -substituted aryl;

Ar^3 is aryl or R^5 -substituted aryl;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH$ (lower alkyl)- and $-C$ (dilower alkyl)-;

R and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$ and $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$;

R^1 and R^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and aryl;

q is 0 or 1;

r is 0 or 1;

m, n and p are independently selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; provided that at least one of q and r is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, q and r is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and provided that when p is 0 and r is 1, the sum of m, q and n is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

R^4 is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$, $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6SO_2R^9$, $-COOR^6$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, $-(lower\ alkylene)COOR^6$, $-CH=CH-COOR^6$, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$ and halogen;

R^5 is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$, $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6SO_2R^9$, $-COOR^6$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, $-(lower\ alkylene)COOR^6$ and $-CH=CH-COOR^6$;

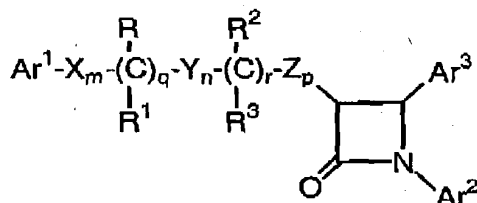
R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

R^9 is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl.

36. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 35, wherein the vascular condition is hyperlipidemia.

37. (Original) A therapeutic combination comprising:

- (a) a first amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) a second amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (I):



(I)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (I) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (I) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein:

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl and R^4 -substituted aryl;

Ar^3 is aryl or R^5 -substituted aryl;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH(\text{lower alkyl})-$ and $-C(\text{dilower alkyl})-$;

R and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$ and $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$;

R^1 and R^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and aryl;

q is 0 or 1;

r is 0 or 1;

m, n and p are independently selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; provided that at least one of q and r is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, q and r is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and provided that when p is 0 and r is 1, the sum of m, q and n is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

R^4 is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$, $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6SO_2R^9$, $-COOR^6$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, $-(lower\ alkylene)COOR^6$, $-CH=CH-COOR^6$, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$ and halogen;

R^5 is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$, $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6SO_2R^9$, $-COOR^6$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, $-(lower\ alkylene)COOR^6$ and $-CH=CH-COOR^6$;

R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

R^9 is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl

wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

38. (Original) A therapeutic combination according to claim 37, wherein the at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator is a fibric acid derivative.

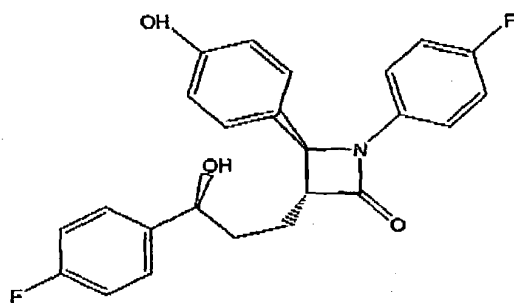
39. (Original) A therapeutic combination according to claim 37, wherein the at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator is administered concomitantly with the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor.

40. (Original) A therapeutic combination according to claim 37, wherein the at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator and the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor are present in separate treatment compositions.

41. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of the therapeutic combination of claim 37.

42. (Original) A composition comprising:

- (a) at least one fibric acid derivative; and
- (b) a compound represented by Formula (II) below:



(II)

or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or prodrug of the compound of Formula (II) or of the salt or solvate thereof.

43. (Original) The composition according to claim 42, wherein the fibric acid derivative is fenofibrate.

44. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 42, wherein the fibric acid derivative is gemfibrozil.

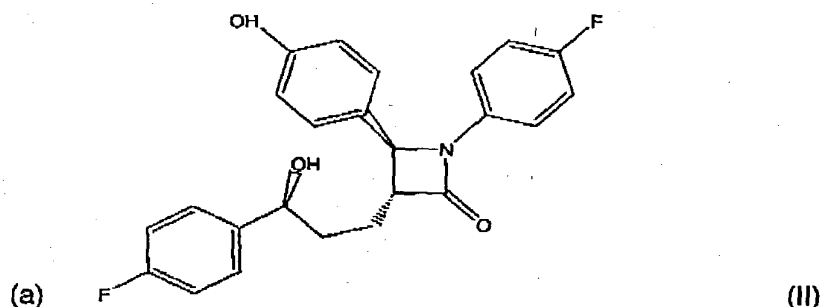
45. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 42, further comprising at least one HMG CoA reductase inhibitor.

46. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the at least one HMG CoA reductase inhibitor is simvastatin.

47. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 42 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

48. (Original) A therapeutic combination comprising:

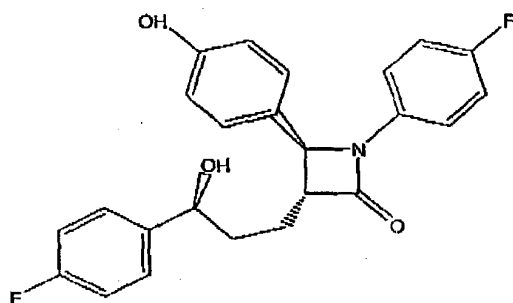
- (a) a first amount of at least one fibric acid derivative; and
- (b) a second amount of a compound represented by Formula (II) below:



or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or prodrug of the compound of Formula (II) or of the salt or solvate thereof, wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

49. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment:

- (a) an effective amount of at least one fibric acid derivative; and
- (b) an effective amount of a compound represented by Formula (II) below:



(II)

or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or prodrug of the compound of Formula (II) or of the salt and solvate thereof.

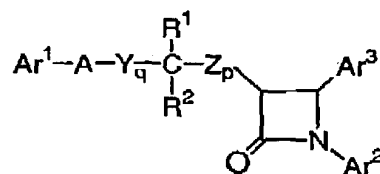
50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, wherein the fibric acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of gemfibrozil, fenofibrate and mixtures thereof.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of an HMG CoA reductase inhibitor.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the HMG CoA reductase inhibitor is simvastatin.

53. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising:

- (a) at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (III):



(III)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (III) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (III) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (III) above:

Ar^1 is R^3 -substituted aryl;

Ar^2 is R^4 -substituted aryl;

Ar^3 is R^5 -substituted aryl;

Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{lower alkyl})-$ and $-\text{C}(\text{dilower alkyl})-$;

A is selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$ or $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of $-\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$ and $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$; R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and aryl; or R^1 and R^2 together are $=\text{O}$;

q is 1, 2 or 3;

p is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^5 is 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of $-\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-5}\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{-lower alkyl}$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{-aryl}$, $-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{COR}^6$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{-aryl}$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{-COOR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, o-halogeno, m-halogeno, o-lower alkyl, m-lower alkyl, $-(\text{lower alkylene})\text{-COOR}^6$, and $-\text{CH}=\text{CH-COOR}^6$;

R^3 and R^4 are independently 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of R^5 , hydrogen, p-lower alkyl, aryl, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{CF}_3$ and p-halogeno;

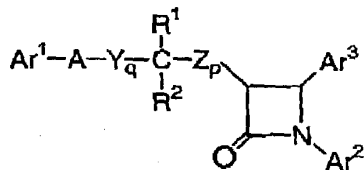
R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

R^9 is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl.

54. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 53 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

55. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment:

- (a) an effective amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) an effective amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (III):



(III)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (III) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (III) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (III) above:

Ar^1 is R^3 -substituted aryl;

Ar^2 is R^4 -substituted aryl;

Ar^3 is R^5 -substituted aryl;

Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH(\text{lower alkyl})-$ and $-C(\text{dilower alkyl})-$;

A is selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, $-S(O)-$ or $-S(O)_2-$;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$ and

$-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$; R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and aryl; or R^1 and R^2 together are $=\text{O}$;

q is 1, 2 or 3;

p is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^5 is 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of $-\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-5}\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2$ -lower alkyl, $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2$ -aryl, $-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{COR}^6$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}$ -alkyl, $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}$ -aryl, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}-\text{COOR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, o -halogeno, m -halogeno, o -lower alkyl, m -lower alkyl, $-(\text{lower alkylene})-\text{COOR}^6$, and $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{COOR}^6$;

R^3 and R^4 are independently 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of R^5 , hydrogen, p -lower alkyl, aryl, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{CF}_3$ and p -halogeno;

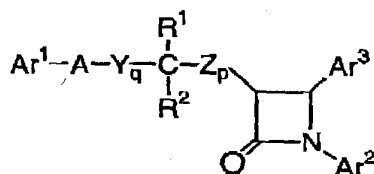
R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

R^9 is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl.

56. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising:

(a) a first amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and

(b) a second amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (III):



(III)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (III) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (III) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (III) above:

Ar^1 is R^3 -substituted aryl;

Ar^2 is R^4 -substituted aryl;

Ar^3 is R^5 -substituted aryl;

Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of $-\text{CH}_2-$,

$-\text{CH}(\text{lower alkyl})-$ and $-\text{C}(\text{dilower alkyl})-$;

A is selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$ or $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of $-\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$ and $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$; R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and aryl; or R^1 and R^2 together are $=\text{O}$;

q is 1, 2 or 3;

p is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^5 is 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of $-\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-5}\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{-lower alkyl}$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{-aryl}$, $-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{COR}^6$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{-aryl}$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{-COOR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, o-halogeno, m-halogeno, o-lower alkyl, m-lower alkyl, $-(\text{lower alkylene})\text{-COOR}^6$, and $-\text{CH}=\text{CH-COOR}^6$;

R^3 and R^4 are independently 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of R^5 , hydrogen, p-lower alkyl, aryl, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{CF}_3$ and p-halogeno;

R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

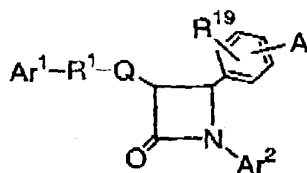
R^9 is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl,

wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

57. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of the therapeutic combination of claim 56.

58. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising:

- (a) at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (IV):



(IV)

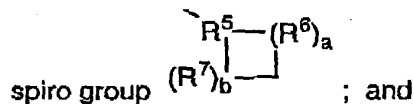
or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (IV) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (IV) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (IV) above:

A is selected from the group consisting of R²-substituted heterocycloalkyl, R²-substituted heteroaryl, R²-substituted benzofused heterocycloalkyl, and R²-substituted benzofused heteroaryl;

Ar¹ is aryl or R³-substituted aryl;

Ar² is aryl or R⁴-substituted aryl;

Q is a bond or, with the 3-position ring carbon of the azetidinone, forms the



R¹ is selected from the group consisting of:

-(CH₂)_q-, wherein q is 2-6, provided that when Q forms a spiro ring, q can also be zero or 1;

-(CH₂)_g-G-(CH₂)_r-, wherein G is -O-, -C(O)-, phenylene, -NR⁸- or

$-S(O)_{0-2}$, e is 0-5 and r is 0-5, provided that the sum of e and r is 1-6;

$-(C_2-C_6 \text{ alkenylene})-$; and

$-(CH_2)_f-V-(CH_2)_g-$, wherein V is C_3-C_6 cycloalkylene, f is 1-5 and g is 0-5, provided that the sum of f and g is 1-6;

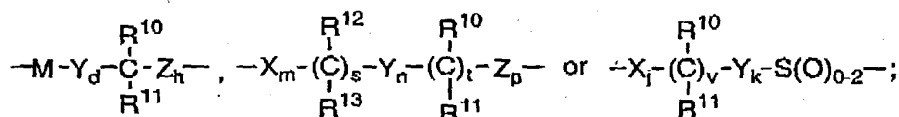
R^5 is selected from:

$-CH-$, $-C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})-$, $-CF-$, $-C(OH)-$, $-C(C_6H_4-R^9)-$, $-N-$, or $-NO-$;

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})-$, $-C(\text{di}(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl}))-$, $-CH=CH-$ and $-C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})=CH-$; or R^5 together with an adjacent R^6 , or R^5 together with an adjacent R^7 , form a $-CH=CH-$ or a $-CH=C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})-$ group;

a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R^6 is $-CH=CH-$ or $-C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})=CH-$, a is 1; provided that when R^7 is $-CH=CH-$ or $-C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})=CH-$, b is 1; provided that when a is 2 or 3, the R^6 's can be the same or different; and provided that when b is 2 or 3, the R^7 's can be the same or different;

and when Q is a bond, R^1 also can be selected from:



where M is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-S(O)-$ or $-S(O)_2-$;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})-$ and $-C(\text{di}(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl}))-$;

R^{10} and R^{12} are independently selected from the group consisting of $-OR^{14}$, $-O(CO)R^{14}$, $-O(CO)OR^{16}$ and $-O(CO)NR^{14}R^{15}$;

R^{11} and R^{13} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl and aryl})$; or R^{10} and R^{11} together are $=O$, or R^{12} and R^{13} together are $=O$;

d is 1, 2 or 3;

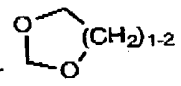
h is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

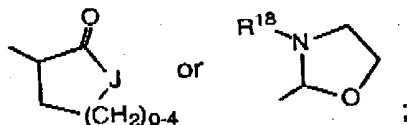
s is 0 or 1; t is 0 or 1; m, n and p are independently 0-4; provided that at least one of s and t is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, s and t is 1-6; provided that when p is 0 and t is 1, the sum of m, s and n is 1-5; and provided that when p is 0 and s is 1, the sum of m, t and n is 1-5;

v is 0 or 1;

j and k are independently 1-5, provided that the sum of j, k and v is 1-5;

R^2 is 1-3 substituents on the ring carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_{10}) alkyl, (C_2-C_{10}) alkenyl, (C_2-C_{10}) alkynyl, (C_3-C_6) cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_6) cycloalkenyl, R^{17} -substituted aryl, R^{17} -substituted benzyl, R^{17} -substituted benzyloxy, R^{17} -substituted aryloxy, halogeno, $-NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}R^{15}(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})-$, $NR^{14}R^{15}C(O)(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})-$, $-NHC(O)R^{16}$, OH, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, $-OC(O)R^{16}$, $-COR^{14}$, hydroxy (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy (C_1-C_6) alkyl, NO_2 , $-S(O)_{0-2}R^{16}$, $-SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$ and $-(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})COOR^{14}$; when R^2 is a

substituent on a heterocycloalkyl ring, R^2 is as defined, or is $=O$ or ; and, where R^2 is a substituent on a substitutable ring nitrogen, it is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, aryl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, aryloxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, hydroxy, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}CONR^{18}R^{19}$,



wherein J is $-O-$, $-NH-$, $-NR^{18}-$ or $-CH_2-$;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6) alkyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-O(CO)R^{14}$, $-O(CO)OR^{16}$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^{14}$, $-O(CO)NR^{14}R^{15}$, $-NR^{14}R^{15}$, $-NR^{14}(CO)R^{15}$, $-NR^{14}(CO)OR^{16}$, $-NR^{14}(CO)NR^{15}R^{19}$, $-NR^{14}SO_2R^{16}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $-COR^{14}$, $-SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^{16}$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^{14}$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $-(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})-COOR^{14}$, $-CH=CH-COOR^{14}$, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, NO_2 and halogen;

R^8 is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, aryl (C_1-C_6) alkyl, $-C(O)R^{14}$ or $-COOR^{14}$;

R^9 and R^{17} are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, $-COOH$, NO_2 , $-NR^{14}R^{15}$, OH and halogeno;

R^{14} and R^{15} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

R^{16} is (C_1-C_6) alkyl, aryl or R^{17} -substituted aryl;

R^{18} is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl; and

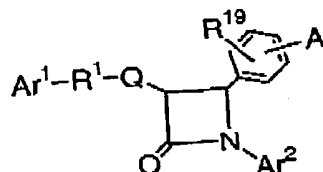
R^{19} is hydrogen, hydroxy or (C_1-C_6) alkoxy.

59. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 58 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

60. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment:

(a) an effective amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and

(b) an effective amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (IV):



(IV)

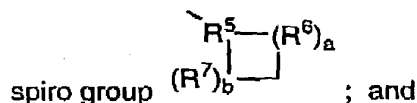
or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (IV) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (IV) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (IV) above:

A is selected from the group consisting of R^2 -substituted heterocycloalkyl, R^2 -substituted heteroaryl, R^2 -substituted benzofused heterocycloalkyl, and R^2 -substituted benzofused heteroaryl;

Ar^1 is aryl or R^3 -substituted aryl;

Ar^2 is aryl or R^4 -substituted aryl;

Q is a bond or, with the 3-position ring carbon of the azetidinone, forms the



R^1 is selected from the group consisting of:

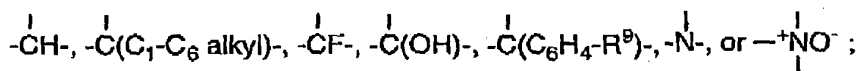
$-(CH_2)_q-$, wherein q is 2-6, provided that when Q forms a spiro ring, q can also be zero or 1;

$-(CH_2)_e-G-(CH_2)_r-$, wherein G is $-O-$, $-C(O)-$, phenylene, $-NR^8-$ or $-S(O)_{0-2}-$, e is 0-5 and r is 0-5, provided that the sum of e and r is 1-6;

$-(C_2-C_8 \text{ alkenylene})-$; and

$-(CH_2)_f-V-(CH_2)_g-$, wherein V is C_3-C_8 cycloalkylene, f is 1-5 and g is 0-5, provided that the sum of f and g is 1-6;

R^5 is selected from:

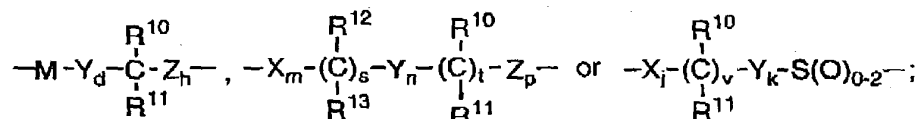


R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})-$, $-C(\text{di-}(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl}))-$, $-CH=CH-$ and $-C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})=CH-$; or R^5 together with an adjacent R^6 , or R^5 together with an adjacent R^7 , form a $-CH=CH-$ or a $-CH=C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})-$ group;

a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R^6 is $-CH=CH-$ or $-C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})=CH-$, a is 1; provided that when R^7 is

-CH=CH- or -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-, b is 1; provided that when a is 2 or 3, the R⁶'s can be the same or different; and provided that when b is 2 or 3, the R⁷'s can be the same or different;

and when Q is a bond, R¹ also can be selected from:



where M is -O-, -S-, -S(O)- or -S(O)₂-;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -CH(C₁-C₆ alkyl)- and -C(di-(C₁-C₆) alkyl)-;

R¹⁰ and R¹² are independently selected from the group consisting of -OR¹⁴, -O(CO)R¹⁴, -O(CO)OR¹⁶ and -O(CO)NR¹⁴R¹⁵;

R¹¹ and R¹³ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl and aryl; or R¹⁰ and R¹¹ together are =O, or R¹² and R¹³ together are =O;

d is 1, 2 or 3;

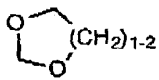
h is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

s is 0 or 1; t is 0 or 1; m, n and p are independently 0-4; provided that at least one of s and t is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, s and t is 1-6; provided that when p is 0 and t is 1, the sum of m, s and n is 1-5; and provided that when p is 0 and s is 1, the sum of m, t and n is 1-5;

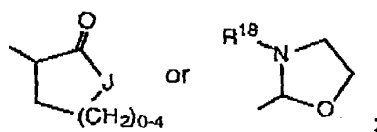
v is 0 or 1;

j and k are independently 1-5, provided that the sum of j, k and v is 1-5;

R² is 1-3 substituents on the ring carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₁₀)alkyl, (C₂-C₁₀)alkenyl, (C₂-C₁₀)alkynyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkenyl, R¹⁷-substituted aryl, R¹⁷-substituted benzyl, R¹⁷-substituted benzyloxy, R¹⁷-substituted aryloxy, halogeno, -NR¹⁴R¹⁵, NR¹⁴R¹⁵(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-, NR¹⁴R¹⁵C(O)(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-, -NHC(O)R¹⁶, OH, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, -OC(O)R¹⁶, -COR¹⁴, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, NO₂, -S(O)₀₋₂R¹⁶, -SO₂NR¹⁴R¹⁵ and -(C₁-C₆ alkylene)COOR¹⁴; when R² is a

substituent on a heterocycloalkyl ring, R^2 is as defined, or is $=O$ or  ;

and, where R^2 is a substituent on a substitutable ring nitrogen, it is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, aryl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, aryloxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, hydroxy, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}CONR^{18}R^{18}$,



wherein J is $-O-$, $-NH-$, $-NR^{18}-$ or $-CH_2-$;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6) alkyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-O(CO)R^{14}$, $-O(CO)OR^{15}$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^{14}$, $-O(CO)NR^{14}R^{15}$, $-NR^{14}R^{15}$, $-NR^{14}(CO)R^{15}$, $-NR^{14}(CO)OR^{16}$, $-NR^{14}(CO)NR^{15}R^{19}$, $-NR^{14}SO_2R^{16}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $-COR^{14}$, $-SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^{16}$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^{14}$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $-(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})-COOR^{14}$, $-CH=CH-COOR^{14}$, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$ and halogen;

R^6 is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, aryl (C_1-C_6) alkyl, $-C(O)R^{14}$ or $-COOR^{14}$;

R^9 and R^{17} are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, $-COOH$, NO_2 , $-NR^{14}R^{15}$, OH and halogeno;

R^{14} and R^{15} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

R^{16} is (C_1-C_6) alkyl, aryl or R^{17} -substituted aryl;

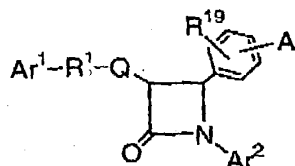
R^{18} is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl; and

R^{19} is hydrogen, hydroxy or (C_1-C_6) alkoxy.

61. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising:

(a) a first amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and

(b) a second amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (IV):



(IV)

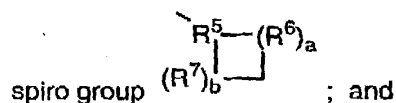
or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (IV) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (IV) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (IV) above:

A is selected from the group consisting of R^2 -substituted heterocycloalkyl, R^2 -substituted heteroaryl, R^2 -substituted benzofused heterocycloalkyl, and R^2 -substituted benzofused heteroaryl;

Ar^1 is aryl or R^3 -substituted aryl;

Ar^2 is aryl or R^4 -substituted aryl;

Q is a bond or, with the 3-position ring carbon of the azetidinone, forms the



R^1 is selected from the group consisting of:

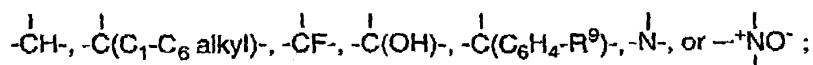
$-(CH_2)_q-$, wherein q is 2-6, provided that when Q forms a spiro ring, q can also be zero or 1;

$-(CH_2)_e-G-(CH_2)_r-$, wherein G is $-O-$, $-C(O)-$, phenylene, $-NR^8-$ or $-S(O)_{0-2}-$, e is 0-5 and r is 0-5, provided that the sum of e and r is 1-6;

$-(C_2-C_6 \text{ alkenylene})-$; and

$-(CH_2)_f-V-(CH_2)_g-$, wherein V is C_3-C_6 cycloalkylene, f is 1-5 and g is 0-5, provided that the sum of f and g is 1-6;

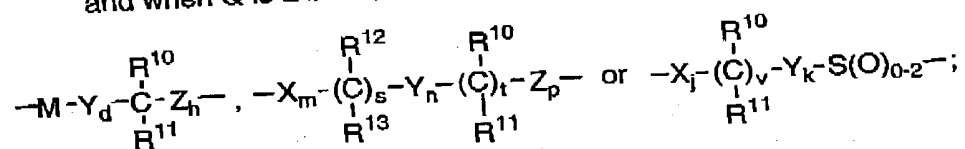
R^5 is selected from:



R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})-$, $-C(\text{di-}(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl}))$, $-CH=CH-$ and $-C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})=CH-$; or R^5 together with an adjacent R^6 , or R^5 together with an adjacent R^7 , form a $-CH=CH-$ or a $-CH=C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})-$ group;

a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R^6 is $-CH=CH-$ or $-C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})=CH-$, a is 1; provided that when R^7 is $-CH=CH-$ or $-C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})=CH-$, b is 1; provided that when a is 2 or 3, the R^6 's can be the same or different; and provided that when b is 2 or 3, the R^7 's can be the same or different;

and when Q is a bond, R^1 also can be selected from:



where M is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-S(O)-$ or $-S(O)_2-$;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})-$ and $-C(\text{di-}(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl}))$;

R^{10} and R^{12} are independently selected from the group consisting of $-OR^{14}$, $-O(CO)R^{14}$, $-O(CO)OR^{16}$ and $-O(CO)NR^{14}R^{15}$;

R^{11} and R^{13} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1-C_6)\text{alkyl}$ and aryl; or R^{10} and R^{11} together are $=O$, or R^{12} and R^{13} together are $=O$;

d is 1, 2 or 3;

h is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

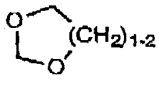
s is 0 or 1; t is 0 or 1; m, n and p are independently 0-4; provided that at least one of s and t is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, s and t is 1-6; provided that when p is 0 and t is 1, the sum of m, s and n is 1-5; and provided that when p is 0 and s is 1, the sum of m, t and n is 1-5;

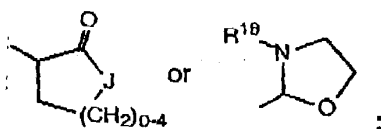
v is 0 or 1;

j and k are independently 1-5, provided that the sum of j, k and v is 1-5;

R^2 is 1-3 substituents on the ring carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1-C_{10})\text{alkyl}$, $(C_2-C_{10})\text{alkenyl}$, $(C_2-C_{10})\text{alkynyl}$,

(C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkenyl, R¹⁷-substituted aryl, R¹⁷-substituted benzyl, R¹⁷-substituted benzyloxy, R¹⁷-substituted aryloxy, halogeno, -NR¹⁴R¹⁵, NR¹⁴R¹⁵ (C₁-C₆ alkylene)-, NR¹⁴R¹⁵C(O)(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-, -NHC(O)R¹⁶, OH, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, -OC(O)R¹⁶, -COR¹⁴, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, NO₂, -S(O)₀₋₂R¹⁶, -SO₂NR¹⁴R¹⁵ and -(C₁-C₆ alkylene)COOR¹⁴; when R² is a substituent on a

heterocycloalkyl ring, R² is as defined, or is =O or ; and, where R² is a substituent on a substitutable ring nitrogen, it is hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, aryloxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, hydroxy, -(CH₂)₁₋₆CONR¹⁸R¹⁶,



wherein J is -O-, -NH-, -NR¹⁸- or -CH₂-;

R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -OR¹⁴, -O(CO)R¹⁴, -O(CO)OR¹⁶, -O(CH₂)₁₋₅OR¹⁴, -O(CO)NR¹⁴R¹⁵, -NR¹⁴R¹⁵, -NR¹⁴(CO)R¹⁵, -NR¹⁴(CO)OR¹⁶, -NR¹⁴(CO)NR¹⁵R¹⁹, -NR¹⁴SO₂R¹⁶, -COOR¹⁴, -CONR¹⁴R¹⁵, -COR¹⁴, -SO₂NR¹⁴R¹⁵, S(O)₀₋₂R¹⁶, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀-COOR¹⁴, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀CONR¹⁴R¹⁵, -(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-COOR¹⁴, -CH=CH-COOR¹⁴, -CF₃, -CN, -NO₂ and halogen;

R⁸ is hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)R¹⁴ or -COOR¹⁴;

R⁹ and R¹⁷ are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, -COOH, NO₂, -NR¹⁴R¹⁵, OH and halogeno;

R¹⁴ and R¹⁵ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R¹⁶ is (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl or R¹⁷-substituted aryl;

R¹⁸ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl; and

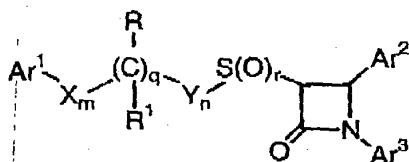
R^{19} is hydrogen, hydroxy or (C_1-C_6) alkoxy,

wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

62. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of the therapeutic combination of claim 60.

63. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising:

- (a) at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (V):



(V)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (V) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (V) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (V) above:

Ar^1 is aryl, R^{10} -substituted aryl or heteroaryl;

Ar^2 is aryl or R^4 -substituted aryl;

Ar^3 is aryl or R^5 -substituted aryl;

X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH(\text{lower alkyl})-$ and $-C(\text{dilower alkyl})-$;

R is $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^6$ or $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$; R^1 is hydrogen, lower alkyl or aryl; or R and R^1 together are $=O$;

q is 0 or 1;

r is 0, 1 or 2;

m and n are independently 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5; provided that the sum of m, n and q is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

R^4 is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$, $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6SO_2R^9$, $-COOR^6$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, $-(lower\ alkylene)COOR^6$ and $-CH=CH-COOR^6$;

R^5 is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$, $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6SO_2R^9$, $-COOR^6$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, halogen, $-(lower\ alkylene)COOR^6$ and $-CH=CH-COOR^6$;

R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl;

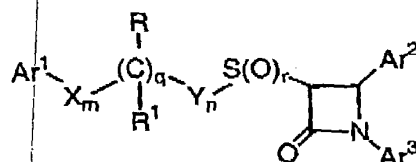
R^9 is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

R^{10} is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$, $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6SO_2R^9$, $-COOR^6$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$ and halogen.

64. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 63 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

65. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment:

- (a) an effective amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) an effective amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (V):



(V)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (V) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (V) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (V) above:

Ar¹ is aryl, R¹⁰-substituted aryl or heteroaryl;

Ar² is aryl or R⁴-substituted aryl;

Ar³ is aryl or R⁵-substituted aryl;

X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -CH(lower alkyl)- and -C(dilower alkyl)-;

R is -OR⁶, -O(CO)R⁶, -O(CO)OR⁹ or -O(CO)NR⁶R⁷; R¹ is hydrogen, lower alkyl or aryl; or R and R¹ together are =O;

q is 0 or 1;

r is 0, 1 or 2;

m and n are independently 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5; provided that the sum of m, n and q is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

R⁴ is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, -OR⁶, -O(CO)R⁶, -O(CO)OR⁹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₅OR⁶, -O(CO)NR⁶R⁷, -NR⁶R⁷, -NR⁶(CO)R⁷, -NR⁶(CO)OR⁹, -NR⁶(CO)NR⁷R⁸, -NR⁶SO₂R⁹, -COOR⁶,

$-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{COR}^6$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{R}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}-\text{COOR}^6$,
 $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-(\text{lower alkylene})\text{COOR}^6$ and $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{COOR}^6$;

R^5 is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of
 $-\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-5}\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{R}^7$,
 $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$, $-\text{COOR}^6$, $-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{COR}^6$,
 $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{R}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}-\text{COOR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$,
 halogen,

$-(\text{lower alkylene})\text{COOR}^6$ and $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{COOR}^6$;

R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of
 hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl;

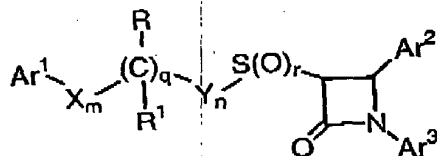
R^9 is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

R^{10} is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of
 lower alkyl, $-\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-5}\text{OR}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$,
 $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$, $-\text{COOR}^6$,
 $-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{COR}^6$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{R}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}-\text{COOR}^6$,
 $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$ and halogen.

66. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising:

(a) a first amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor
 activator; and

(b) a second amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented
 by Formula (V):



(V)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (V) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (V) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (V) above:

Ar^1 is aryl, R^{10} -substituted aryl or heteroaryl;

Ar^2 is aryl or R^4 -substituted aryl;

Ar^3 is aryl or R^5 -substituted aryl;

X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$,

$-CH(\text{lower alkyl})-$ and $-C(\text{dilower alkyl})-$;

R is $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$ or $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$; R^1 is hydrogen, lower alkyl or aryl; or R and R^1 together are $=O$;

q is 0 or 1;

r is 0, 1 or 2;

m and n are independently 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5; provided that the sum of m, n and q is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

R^4 is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$, $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6SO_2R^9$, $-COOR^6$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, $-(\text{lower alkylene})COOR^6$ and $-CH=CH-COOR^6$;

R^5 is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)R^7$, $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$, $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6SO_2R^9$, $-COOR^6$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}-COOR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, halogen,

$-(\text{lower alkylene})COOR^6$ and $-CH=CH-COOR^6$;

R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl;

R^9 is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

R^{10} is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$,

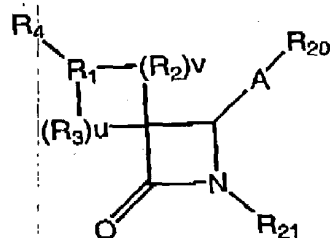
$-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{R}^7$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$, $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$, $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$, $-\text{COOR}^6$,
 $-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{COR}^6$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{R}^9$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}-\text{COOR}^6$,
 $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$ and halogen,

wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

67. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of the therapeutic combination of claim 66.

68. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising:

- (a) at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (VI):



(VI)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (VI) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (VI) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein in Formula VI above:

R_1 is

$-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{C}(\text{lower alkyl})-$, $-\text{CF}_2-$, $-\text{C}(\text{OH})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)-$, $-\text{C}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{R}_{15})-$,

$-\text{N}-$ or $-\text{N}^+\text{O}^-$;

R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of:

-CH₂-, -CH(lower alkyl)-, -C(di-lower alkyl)-, -CH=CH- and -C(lower alkyl)=CH-; or R₁ together with an adjacent R₂, or R₁ together with an adjacent R₃, form a -CH=CH- or a -CH=C(lower alkyl)- group;

u and v are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R₂ is -CH=CH- or -C(lower alkyl)=CH-, v is 1; provided that when R₃ is -CH=CH- or -C(lower alkyl)=CH-, u is 1; provided that when v is 2 or 3, the R₂'s can be the same or different; and provided that when u is 2 or 3, the R₃'s can be the same or different;

R₄ is selected from B-(CH₂)_mC(O)-, wherein m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

B-(CH₂)_q-, wherein q is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

B-(CH₂)_e-Z-(CH₂)_r-, wherein Z is -O-, -C(O)-, phenylene, -N(R₈)- or -S(O)₀₋₂-, e is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 and r is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, provided that the sum of e and r is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

B-(C₂-C₆ alkenylene)-;

B-(C₄-C₆ alkadienylene)-;

B-(CH₂)_t-Z-(C₂-C₆ alkenylene)-, wherein Z is as defined above, and wherein t is 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided that the sum of t and the number of carbon atoms in the alkenylene chain is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

B-(CH₂)_f-V-(CH₂)_g-, wherein V is C₃-C₆ cycloalkylene, f is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 and g is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, provided that the sum of f and g is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

B-(CH₂)_t-V-(C₂-C₆ alkenylene)- or

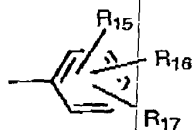
B-(C₂-C₆ alkenylene)-V-(CH₂)_t-, wherein V and t are as defined above, provided that the sum of t and the number of carbon atoms in the alkenylene chain is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

B-(CH₂)_a-Z-(CH₂)_b-V-(CH₂)_d-, wherein Z and V are as defined above and a, b and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, provided that the sum of a, b and d is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; or T-(CH₂)_s-, wherein T is cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms and s is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; or

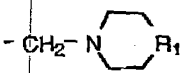
R₁ and R₄ together form the group B-CH=C¹-;

B is selected from indanyl, indenyl, naphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, heteroaryl or W-substituted heteroaryl, wherein heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyrrolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl,

thienyl, oxazolyl and furanyl, and for nitrogen-containing heteroaryls, the N-oxides thereof, or



W is 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxycarbonylalkoxy, (lower alkoxyimino)-lower alkyl, lower alkanedioyl, lower alkyl lower alkanedioyl, allyloxy, -CF₃, -OCF₃, benzyl, R7-benzyl, benzyloxy, R7-benzyloxy, phenoxy, R7-phenoxy, dioxolanyl, NO₂, -N(R₈)(R₉), N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkylene-, N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkyleneoxy-, OH, halogeno, -CN, -N₃, -NHC(O)OR₁₀, -NHC(O)R₁₀, R₁₁O₂SNH-, (R₁₁O₂S)₂N-, -S(O)₂NH₂, -S(O)₀₋₂R₈, tert-butyl dimethyl-silyloxymethyl, -C(O)R₁₂, -COOR₁₉, -CON(R₈)(R₉), -CH=CHC(O)R₁₂, -lower alkylene-C(O)R₁₂, R₁₀C(O)(lower alkyleneoxy)-,

N(R₈)(R₉)C(O)(lower alkyleneoxy)- and  for substitution on ring carbon atoms,

and the substituents on the substituted heteroaryl ring nitrogen atoms, when present, are selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, -C(O)OR₁₀, -C(O)R₁₀, OH, N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkylene-, N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkyleneoxy-, -S(O)₂NH₂ and 2-(trimethylsilyl)-ethoxymethyl;

R₇ is 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, -COOH, NO₂, -N(R₈)(R₉), OH, and halogeno;

R₈ and R₉ are independently selected from H or lower alkyl;

R₁₀ is selected from lower alkyl, phenyl, R7-phenyl, benzyl or R7-benzyl;

R₁₁ is selected from OH, lower alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, R7-phenyl or R7-benzyl;

R₁₂ is selected from H, OH, alkoxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy,

, -N(R₈)(R₉), lower alkyl, phenyl or R7-phenyl;

R₁₃ is selected from -O-, -CH₂-, -NH-, -N(lower alkyl)- or -NC(O)R₁₉;

R₁₅, R₁₆ and R₁₇ are independently selected from the group consisting of H and the groups defined for W; or R₁₅ is hydrogen and R₁₆ and R₁₇, together with adjacent carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a dioxolanyl ring;

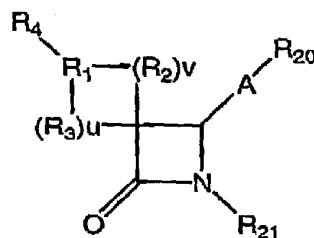
R₁₉ is H, lower alkyl, phenyl or phenyl lower alkyl; and

R₂₀ and R₂₁ are independently selected from the group consisting of phenyl, W-substituted phenyl, naphthyl, W-substituted naphthyl, indanyl, indenyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, benzodioxolyl, heteroaryl, W-substituted heteroaryl, benzofused heteroaryl, W-substituted benzofused heteroaryl and cyclopropyl, wherein heteroaryl is as defined above.

69. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 68 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

70. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment:

- (a) an effective amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) an effective amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (VI):



(VI)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (VI) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (VI) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein in Formula (VI) above:

R₁ is

-CH- , -C(lower alkyl)- , -CF- , -C(OH)- , $\text{-C(C}_6\text{H}_5\text{)-}$, $\text{-C(C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-R}_{15}\text{)-}$,

-N- or $\text{-N}^+\text{O}^-$;

R₂ and R₃ are independently selected from the group consisting of:

$\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$, -CH(lower alkyl)- , $\text{-C(di-lower alkyl)-}$, -CH=CH- and $\text{-C(lower alkyl)=CH-}$; or

R₁ together with an adjacent R₂, or R₁ together with an adjacent R₃, form a

-CH=CH- or a $\text{-CH=C(lower alkyl)-}$ group;

u and v are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R₂ is -CH=CH- or $\text{-C(lower alkyl)=CH-}$, v is 1; provided that when R₃ is -CH=CH- or $\text{-C(lower alkyl)=CH-}$, u is 1; provided that when v is 2 or 3, the R₂'s can be the same or different; and provided that when u is 2 or 3, the R₃'s can be the same or different;

R₄ is selected from $\text{B-(CH}_2\text{)}_m\text{C(O)-}$, wherein m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

$\text{B-(CH}_2\text{)}_q\text{-}$, wherein q is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

$\text{B-(CH}_2\text{)}_e\text{-Z-(CH}_2\text{)}_r\text{-}$, wherein Z is -O- , -C(O)- , phenylene, $\text{-N(R}_g\text{)-}$ or $\text{-S(O)}_{0-2}\text{-}$, e is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 and r is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, provided that the sum of e and r is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

$\text{B-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{ alkenylene)-}$;

$\text{B-(C}_4\text{-C}_6\text{ alkadienylene)-}$;

$\text{B-(CH}_2\text{)}_t\text{-Z-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{ alkenylene)-}$, wherein Z is as defined above, and wherein t is 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided that the sum of t and the number of carbon atoms in the alkenylene chain is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

$\text{B-(CH}_2\text{)}_f\text{-V-(CH}_2\text{)}_g\text{-}$, wherein V is $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ cycloalkylene, f is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 and g is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, provided that the sum of f and g is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

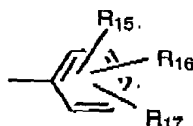
$\text{B-(CH}_2\text{)}_t\text{-V-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{ alkenylene)-}$ or

$\text{B-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{ alkenylene)-V-(CH}_2\text{)}_t\text{-}$, wherein V and t are as defined above, provided that the sum of t and the number of carbon atoms in the alkenylene chain is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

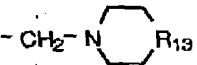
$B-(CH_2)_a-Z-(CH_2)_b-V-(CH_2)_d$, wherein Z and V are as defined above and a, b and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, provided that the sum of a, b and d is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; or $T-(CH_2)_s$, wherein T is cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms and s is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; or

R₁ and R₄ together form the group $B-CH=C^1-$;

B is selected from indanyl, indenyl, naphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, heteroaryl or W-substituted heteroaryl, wherein heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyrrolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, oxazolyl and furanyl, and for nitrogen-containing heteroaryls, the N-oxides thereof, or



W is 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyacetylalkoxy, (lower alkoxyimino)-lower alkyl, lower alkanedioyl, lower alkyl lower alkanedioyl, allyloxy, -CF₃, -OCF₃, benzyl, R₇-benzyl, benzyloxy, R₇-benzyloxy, phenoxy, R₇-phenoxy, dioxolanyl, NO₂, -N(R₈)(R₉), N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkylene-, N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkyleneoxy-, OH, halogeno, -CN, -N₃, -NHC(O)OR₁₀, -NHC(O)R₁₀, R₁₁O₂SNH-, (R₁₁O₂S)₂N-, -S(O)₂NH₂, -S(O)₀₋₂R₈, tert-butyl dimethyl-silyloxymethyl, -C(O)R₁₂, -COOR₁₉, -CON(R₈)(R₉), -CH=CHC(O)R₁₂, -lower alkylene-C(O)R₁₂, R₁₀C(O)(lower alkyleneoxy)-,

N(R₈)(R₉)C(O)(lower alkyleneoxy)- and  for substitution on ring carbon atoms,

and the substituents on the substituted heteroaryl ring nitrogen atoms, when present, are selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, -C(O)OR₁₀, -C(O)R₁₀, OH, N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkylene-, N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkyleneoxy-, -S(O)₂NH₂ and 2-(trimethylsilyl)-ethoxymethyl;

R₇ is 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, -COOH, NO₂, -N(R₈)(R₉), OH, and halogeno;

R₈ and R₉ are independently selected from H or lower alkyl;

R₁₀ is selected from lower alkyl, phenyl, R₇-phenyl, benzyl or R₇-benzyl;

R₁₁ is selected from OH, lower alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, R₇-phenyl or R₇-benzyl;

R₁₂ is selected from H, OH, alkoxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy,

, -N(R₈)(R₉), lower alkyl, phenyl or R₇-phenyl;

R₁₃ is selected from -O-, -CH₂-, -NH-, -N(lower alkyl)- or -NC(O)R₁₉;

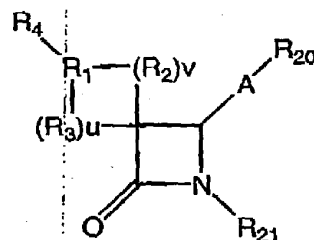
R₁₅, R₁₆ and R₁₇ are independently selected from the group consisting of H and the groups defined for W; or R₁₅ is hydrogen and R₁₆ and R₁₇, together with adjacent carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a dioxolanyl ring;

R₁₉ is H, lower alkyl, phenyl or phenyl lower alkyl; and

R₂₀ and R₂₁ are independently selected from the group consisting of phenyl, W-substituted phenyl, naphthyl, W-substituted naphthyl, indanyl, indenyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, benzodioxolyl, heteroaryl, W-substituted heteroaryl, benzofused heteroaryl, W-substituted benzofused heteroaryl and cyclopropyl, wherein heteroaryl is as defined above.

71. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising:

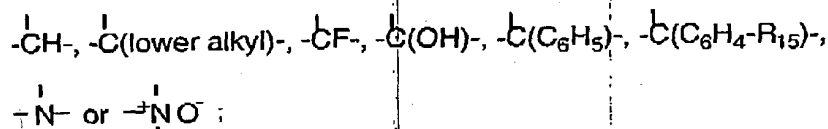
- (a) a first amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) a second amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (VI):



(VI)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (VI) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (VI) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein:

R₁ is



R₂ and R₃ are independently selected from the group consisting of:

$-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{lower alkyl})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{di-lower alkyl})-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ and $-\text{C}(\text{lower alkyl})=\text{CH}-$; or R₁ together with an adjacent R₂, or R₁ together with an adjacent R₃, form a $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ or a $-\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{lower alkyl})-$ group;

u and v are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R₂ is $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ or $-\text{C}(\text{lower alkyl})=\text{CH}-$, v is 1; provided that when R₃ is $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ or $-\text{C}(\text{lower alkyl})=\text{CH}-$, u is 1; provided that when v is 2 or 3, the R₂'s can be the same or different; and provided that when u is 2 or 3, the R₃'s can be the same or different;

R₄ is selected from $\text{B}-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{C}(\text{O})-$, wherein m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

$\text{B}-(\text{CH}_2)_q-$, wherein q is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

$\text{B}-(\text{CH}_2)_e\text{-Z-(CH}_2)_r-$, wherein Z is $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, phenylene, $-\text{N}(\text{R}_8)-$ or $-\text{S}(\text{O})_0\text{-}_2-$, e is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 and r is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, provided that the sum of e and r is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

$\text{B}-(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6 \text{ alkenylene})-$;

$\text{B}-(\text{C}_4\text{-C}_6 \text{ alkadienylene})-$;

$\text{B}-(\text{CH}_2)_t\text{-Z-(C}_2\text{-C}_6 \text{ alkenylene})-$, wherein Z is as defined above, and wherein t is 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided that the sum of t and the number of carbon atoms in the alkenylene chain is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

$\text{B}-(\text{CH}_2)_f\text{-V-(CH}_2)_g-$, wherein V is $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ cycloalkylene, f is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 and g is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, provided that the sum of f and g is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

$\text{B}-(\text{CH}_2)_t\text{-V-(C}_2\text{-C}_6 \text{ alkenylene})-$ or

$\text{B}-(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6 \text{ alkenylene})\text{-V-(CH}_2)_t-$, wherein V and t are as defined above, provided that the sum of t and the number of carbon atoms in the alkenylene chain is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

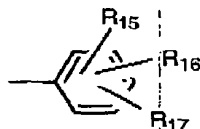
$\text{B}-(\text{CH}_2)_a\text{-Z-(CH}_2)_b\text{-V-(CH}_2)_d-$, wherein Z and V are as defined above and a, b and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, provided that the sum of a, b and d is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; or

$T-(CH_2)_s$, wherein T is cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms and s is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

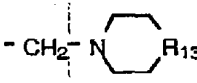
or

R₁ and R₄ together form the group $B-\overset{\overset{|}{\text{C}}}{\text{CH}}=$;

B is selected from indanyl, indenyl, naphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, heteroaryl or W-substituted heteroaryl, wherein heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyrrolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, oxazolyl and furanyl, and for nitrogen-containing heteroaryls, the N-oxides thereof, or



W is 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxycarbonylalkoxy, (lower alkoxyimino)-lower alkyl, lower alkanedioyl, lower alkyl lower alkanedioyl, allyloxy, -CF₃, -OCF₃, benzyl, R₇-benzyl, benzyloxy, R₇-benzyloxy, phenoxy, R₇-phenoxy, dioxolanyl, NO₂, -N(R₈)(R₉), N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkylene-, N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkylenyloxy-, OH, halogeno, -CN, -N₃, -NHC(O)OR₁₀, -NHC(O)R₁₀, R₁₁O₂SNH-, (R₁₁O₂S)₂N-, -S(O)₂NH₂, -S(O)₀₋₂R₈, tert-butyldimethyl-silyloxymethyl, -C(O)R₁₂, -COOR₁₉, -CON(R₈)(R₉), -CH=CHC(O)R₁₂, -lower alkylene-C(O)R₁₂, R₁₀C(O)(lower alkylenyloxy)-,

N(R₈)(R₉)C(O)(lower alkylenyloxy)- and  for substitution on ring carbon atoms,

and the substituents on the substituted heteroaryl ring nitrogen atoms, when present, are selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, -C(O)OR₁₀, -C(O)R₁₀, OH, N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkylene-,

N(R₈)(R₉)-lower alkylenyloxy-, -S(O)₂NH₂ and 2-(trimethylsilyl)-ethoxymethyl;

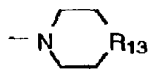
R₇ is 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, -COOH, NO₂, -N(R₈)(R₉), OH, and halogeno;

R₈ and R₉ are independently selected from H or lower alkyl;

R₁₀ is selected from lower alkyl, phenyl, R₇-phenyl, benzyl or R₇-benzyl;

R₁₁ is selected from OH, lower alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, R₇-phenyl or R₇-benzyl;

R₁₂ is selected from H, OH, alkoxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy,



, -N(R₈)(R₉), lower alkyl, phenyl or R₇-phenyl;

R₁₃ is selected from -O-, -CH₂-, -NH-, -N(lower alkyl)- or -NC(O)R₁₉;

R₁₅, R₁₆ and R₁₇ are independently selected from the group consisting of H and the groups defined for W; or R₁₅ is hydrogen and R₁₆ and R₁₇, together with adjacent carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a dioxolanyl ring;

R₁₉ is H, lower alkyl, phenyl or phenyl lower alkyl; and

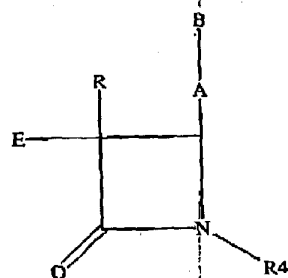
R₂₀ and R₂₁ are independently selected from the group consisting of phenyl, W-substituted phenyl, naphthyl, W-substituted naphthyl, indanyl, indenyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, benzodioxolyl, heteroaryl, W-substituted heteroaryl, benzofused heteroaryl, W-substituted benzofused heteroaryl and cyclopropyl, wherein heteroaryl is as defined above,

wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

72. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of the therapeutic combination of claim 71.

73. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising:

- (a) at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (VII):

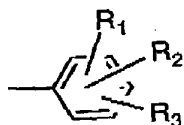


(VII)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (VII) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (VII) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein in Formula (VII):

A is $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ or $-(\text{CH}_2)_p-$ wherein p is 0, 1 or 2;

B is



E is C_{10} to C_{20} alkyl or $-\text{C}(\text{O})-(\text{C}_9 \text{ to } \text{C}_{19})\text{-alkyl}$, wherein the alkyl is straight or branched, saturated or containing one or more double bonds;

R is hydrogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{15}$ alkyl, straight or branched, saturated or containing one or more double bonds, or $\text{B}-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$, wherein r is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, carboxy, NO_2 , NH_2 , OH, halogeno, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino, $-\text{NHC}(\text{O})\text{OR}_5$, $\text{R}_6\text{O}_2\text{SNH}-$ and $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{NH}_2$;

R_4 is



wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R_5 is lower alkyl; and

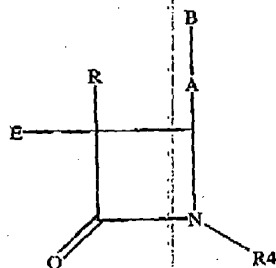
R_6 is OH, lower alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or substituted phenyl wherein the substituents are 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, carboxy, NO_2 , NH_2 , OH, halogeno, lower alkylamino and dilower alkylamino.

74. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 73 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

75. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment:

(a) an effective amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and

(b) an effective amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (VII):

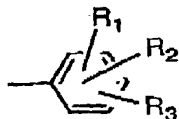


(VII)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (VII) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (VII) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein in Formula (VII):

A is $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ or $-(\text{CH}_2)_p$ wherein p is 0, 1 or 2;

B is

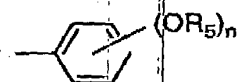


E is C₁₀ to C₂₀ alkyl or -C(O)-(C₉ to C₁₉)-alkyl, wherein the alkyl is straight or branched, saturated or containing one or more double bonds;

R is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₅ alkyl, straight or branched, saturated or containing one or more double bonds, or B-(CH₂)_r-, wherein r is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

R₁, R₂, and R₃ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, carboxy, NO₂, NH₂, OH, halogeno, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino, -NHC(O)OR₅, R₆O₂SNH- and -S(O)₂NH₂;

R₄ is



wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R₅ is lower alkyl; and

R₆ is OH, lower alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or substituted phenyl wherein the substituents are 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, carboxy, NO₂, NH₂, OH, halogeno, lower alkylamino and dilower alkylamino;

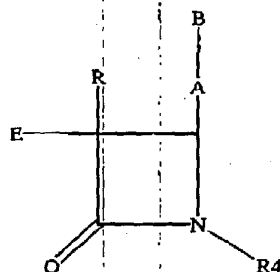
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

76. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising:

(a) a first amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and

(b) a second amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by

Formula (VII):

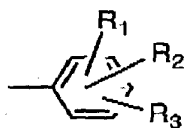


(VII)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (VII) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (VII) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein in Formula (VII):

A is $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ or $-(\text{CH}_2)_p-$ wherein p is 0, 1 or 2;

B is

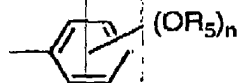


E is C₁₀ to C₂₀ alkyl or $-\text{C}(\text{O})-(\text{C}_9 \text{ to } \text{C}_{19})\text{-alkyl}$, wherein the alkyl is straight or branched, saturated or containing one or more double bonds;

R is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₅ alkyl, straight or branched, saturated or containing one or more double bonds, or $\text{B}-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$, wherein r is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

R₁, R₂, and R₃ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, carboxy, NO₂, NH₂, OH, halogeno, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino, $-\text{NHC}(\text{O})\text{OR}_5$, $\text{R}_6\text{O}_2\text{SNH}-$ and $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{NH}_2$;

R₄ is



wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R₅ is lower alkyl; and

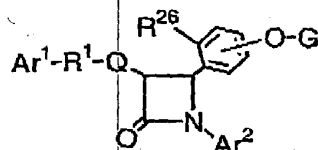
R₆ is OH, lower alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or substituted phenyl wherein the substituents are 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, carboxy, NO₂, NH₂, OH, halogeno, lower alkylamino and dilower alkylamino;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

77. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of the therapeutic combination of claim 76.

78. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising:

- (a) at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (VIII):

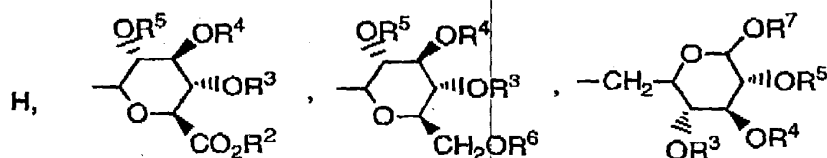


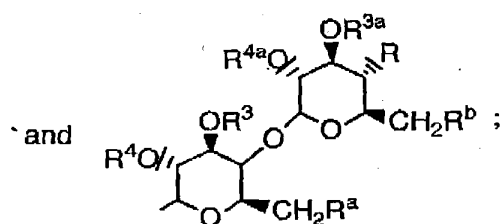
(VIII)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (VIII) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (VII) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (VIII) above,

R²⁶ is H or OG¹;

G and G¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of





provided that when R²⁶ is H or

OH, G is not H;

R, R^a and R^b are independently selected from the group consisting of H, -OH, halogeno, -NH₂, azido, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy(C₁-C₆)-alkoxy or -W-R³⁰;

W is independently selected from the group consisting of -NH-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-N(R³¹)-, -NH-C(O)-N(R³¹)- and -O-C(S)-N(R³¹)-;

R² and R⁶ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁷, R^{3a} and R^{4a} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)(C₁-C₆)alkyl and -C(O)aryl;

R³⁰ is selected from the group consisting of R³²-substituted T, R³²-substituted-T-(C₁-C₆)alkyl, R³²-substituted-(C₂-C₄)alkenyl, R³²-substituted-(C₁-C₆)alkyl, R³²-substituted-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl and R³²-substituted-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R³¹ is selected from the group consisting of H and (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

T is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl and pyridyl;

R³² is independently selected from 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halogeno, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, -OH, phenoxy, -CF₃, -NO₂, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, methylenedioxy, oxo, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfanyl, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfinyl, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfonyl, -N(CH₃)₂, -C(O)-NH(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -C(O)-N((C₁-C₄)alkyl)₂, -C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkoxy and pyrrolidinylcarbonyl; or R³² is a covalent bond and R³¹, the nitrogen to which it is attached and R³² form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methyl-piperazinyl, indolyl or morpholyl group, or a (C₁-C₄)alkoxycarbonyl-substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl,

N-methylpiperazinyl, indoliny1 or morpholiny1 group;

Ar¹ is aryl or R¹⁰-substituted aryl;

Ar² is aryl or R¹¹-substituted aryl;

Q is a bond or, with the 3-position ring carbon of the azetidinone,

forms the spiro group $(R^{14})_b \begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ R^{12} \\ \diagdown \end{array} \begin{array}{c} (R^{13})_a \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{array}$; and

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of

-(CH₂)_q-, wherein q is 2-6, provided that when Q forms a spiro ring, q can also be zero or 1;

-(CH₂)_e-E-(CH₂)_r-, wherein E is -O-, -C(O)-, phenylene, -NR²²- or -S(O)₀₋₂-, e is 0-5 and r is 0-5, provided that the sum of e and r is 1-6;

-(C₂-C₆)alkenylene-; and

-(CH₂)_f-V-(CH₂)_g-, wherein V is C₃-C₆ cycloalkylene, f is 1-5 and g is 0-5, provided that the sum of f and g is 1-6;

R¹² is

$\begin{array}{c} | \\ -CH- \\ | \end{array}$, $\begin{array}{c} | \\ -C(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})- \\ | \end{array}$, $\begin{array}{c} | \\ -CF- \\ | \end{array}$, $\begin{array}{c} | \\ -C(OH)- \\ | \end{array}$, $\begin{array}{c} | \\ -C(C_6H_4-R^{23})- \\ | \end{array}$, $\begin{array}{c} | \\ -N- \\ | \end{array}$, or $\begin{array}{c} | \\ -NO- \\ | \end{array}$;

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -CH(C₁-C₆ alkyl)-, -C(di-(C₁-C₆ alkyl))-, -CH=CH- and -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-; or R¹² together with an adjacent R¹³, or R¹² together with an adjacent R¹⁴, form a -CH=CH- or a -CH=C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)- group;

a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero;

provided that when R¹³ is -CH=CH- or -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-, a is 1;

provided that when R¹⁴ is -CH=CH- or -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-, b is 1;

provided that when a is 2 or 3, the R¹³'s can be the same or different; and

provided that when b is 2 or 3, the R¹⁴'s can be the same or different;

and when Q is a bond, R¹ also can be:

$\begin{array}{c} R^{15} \\ | \\ -M-Y_d-\dot{C}-Z_h- \\ | \\ R^{16} \end{array}$, $\begin{array}{c} R^{17} \\ | \\ -X_m-(\dot{C})_s-Y_n-(\dot{C})_t-Z_p- \\ | \quad | \\ R^{18} \quad R^{16} \end{array}$ or $\begin{array}{c} R^{15} \\ | \\ -X_j-(\dot{C})_v-Y_k-S(O)_{0-2}- \\ | \\ R^{16} \end{array}$;

M is -O-, -S-, -S(O)- or -S(O)₂-;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -CH(C₁-C₆)alkyl- and -C(di-(C₁-C₆)alkyl);

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -OR¹⁹, -O(CO)R¹⁹, -O(CO)OR²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₅OR¹⁹, -O(CO)NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)OR²¹, -NR¹⁹(CO)NR²⁰R²⁵, -NR¹⁹SO₂R²¹, -COOR¹⁹, -CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -COR¹⁹, -SO₂NR¹⁹R²⁰, S(O)₀₋₂R²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀-COOR¹⁹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-COOR¹⁹, -CH=CH-COOR¹⁹, -CF₃, -CN, -NO₂ and halogen;

R¹⁵ and R¹⁷ are independently selected from the group consisting of -OR¹⁹, -O(CO)R¹⁹, -O(CO)OR²¹ and -O(CO)NR¹⁹R²⁰;

R¹⁶ and R¹⁸ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl and aryl; or R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ together are =O, or R¹⁷ and R¹⁸ together are =O;

d is 1, 2 or 3;

h is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

s is 0 or 1; t is 0 or 1; m, n and p are independently 0-4;

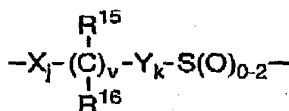
provided that at least one of s and t is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, s and t is 1-6;

provided that when p is 0 and t is 1, the sum of m, s and n is 1-5; and

provided that when p is 0 and s is 1, the sum of m, t and n is 1-5;

v is 0 or 1;

j and k are independently 1-5, provided that the sum of j, k and v is 1-5;



and when Q is a bond and R¹ is $\begin{array}{c} \text{R}^{15} \\ | \\ -\text{X}_j-(\text{C})_v-\text{Y}_k-\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}- \\ | \\ \text{R}^{16} \end{array}$, Ar¹ can also be pyridyl, isoxazolyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl;

R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R²¹ is (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl or R²⁴-substituted aryl;

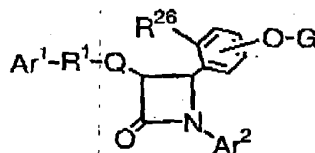
R²² is H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)R¹⁹ or -COOR¹⁹;

R²³ and R²⁴ are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, -COOH, NO₂, -NR¹⁹R²⁰, -OH and halogeno; and
R²⁵ is H, -OH or (C₁-C₆)alkoxy.

79. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 78 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

80. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment:

- (a) an effective amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) an effective amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (VIII):



(VIII)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (VIII) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (VIII) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (VIII) above,

R²⁶ is H or OG¹;

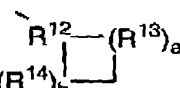
G and G¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of

-C(O)-N((C₁-C₄)alkyl)₂, -C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkoxy and pyrrolidinylcarbonyl; or R³² is a covalent bond and R³¹, the nitrogen to which it is attached and R³² form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methyl-piperazinyl, indolinyl or morpholinyl group, or a (C₁-C₄)alkoxycarbonyl-substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methylpiperazinyl, indolinyl or morpholinyl group;

Ar¹ is aryl or R¹⁰-substituted aryl;

Ar² is aryl or R¹¹-substituted aryl;

Q is a bond or, with the 3-position ring carbon of the azetidinone,

forms the spiro group ; and

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of

-(CH₂)_q-, wherein q is 2-6, provided that when Q forms a spiro ring, q can also be zero or 1;

-(CH₂)_e-E-(CH₂)_r-, wherein E is -O-, -C(O)-, phenylene, -NR²²- or -S(O)₀₋₂-, e is 0-5 and r is 0-5, provided that the sum of e and r is 1-6;

-(C₂-C₆)alkenylene-; and

-(CH₂)_f-V-(CH₂)_g-, wherein V is C₃-C₆ cycloalkylene, f is 1-5 and g is 0-5, provided that the sum of f and g is 1-6;

R¹² is

-CH-, -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)-, -CF-, -C(OH)-, -C(C₆H₄-R²³)-, -N-, or -N⁺O⁻;

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -CH(C₁-C₆ alkyl)-, -C(di-(C₁-C₆) alkyl)-, -CH=CH- and -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-; or R¹² together with an adjacent R¹³, or R¹² together with an adjacent R¹⁴, form a -CH=CH- or a -CH=C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)- group;

a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero;

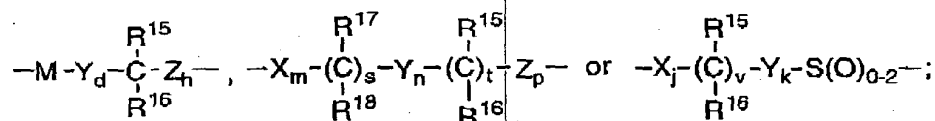
provided that when R¹³ is -CH=CH- or -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-, a is 1;

provided that when R¹⁴ is -CH=CH- or -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-, b is 1;

provided that when a is 2 or 3, the R¹³'s can be the same or different; and

provided that when b is 2 or 3, the R¹⁴'s can be the same or different;

and when Q is a bond, R¹ also can be:



M is -O-, -S-, -S(O)- or -S(O)₂-;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -CH(C₁-C₆)alkyl- and -C(di-(C₁-C₆)alkyl);

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -OR¹⁹, -O(CO)R¹⁹, -O(CO)OR²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₅OR¹⁹, -O(CO)NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)OR²¹, -NR¹⁹(CO)NR²⁰R²⁵, -NR¹⁹SO₂R²¹, -COOR¹⁹, -CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -COR¹⁹, -SO₂NR¹⁹R²⁰, S(O)₀₋₂R²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀-COOR¹⁹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-COOR¹⁹, -CH=CH-COOR¹⁹, -CF₃, -CN, -NO₂ and halogen;

R¹⁵ and R¹⁷ are independently selected from the group consisting of -OR¹⁹, -O(CO)R¹⁹, -O(CO)OR²¹ and -O(CO)NR¹⁹R²⁰;

R¹⁶ and R¹⁸ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl and aryl; or R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ together are =O, or R¹⁷ and R¹⁸ together are =O;

d is 1, 2 or 3;

h is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

s is 0 or 1; t is 0 or 1; m, n and p are independently 0-4;

provided that at least one of s and t is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, s and t is 1-6;

provided that when p is 0 and t is 1, the sum of m, s and n is 1-5; and

provided that when p is 0 and s is 1, the sum of m, t and n is 1-5;

v is 0 or 1;

j and k are independently 1-5, provided that the sum of j, k and v is 1-5;

and when Q is a bond and R¹ is
$$-X_j-\overset{\overset{R^{15}}{|}}{\underset{\underset{R^{16}}{|}}{(C)_v}}-Y_k-S(O)_{0-2}-$$
, Ar¹ can also be pyridyl, isoxazolyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl;

R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R²¹ is (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl or R²⁴-substituted aryl;

R²² is H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)R¹⁹ or -COOR¹⁹;

R²³ and R²⁴ are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, -COOH, NO₂,

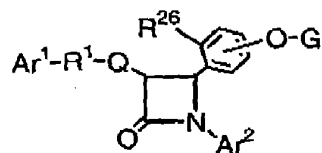
-NR¹⁹R²⁰, -OH and halogeno; and

R²⁵ is H, -OH or (C₁-C₆)alkoxy.

81. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising:

(a) a first amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and

(b) a second amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (VIII):

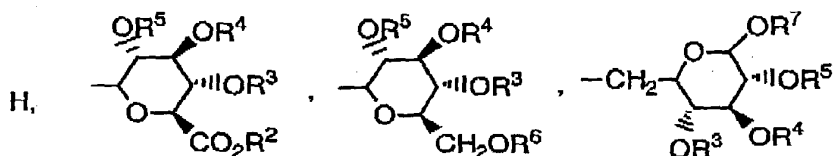


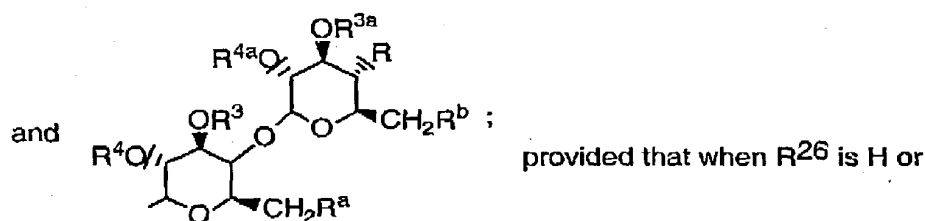
(VIII)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (VIII) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (VIII) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (VIII) above,

R²⁶ is H or OG¹;

G and G¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of





OH, G is not H;

R, R^a and R^b are independently selected from the group consisting of H, -OH, halogeno, -NH₂, azido, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy(C₁-C₆)-alkoxy or -W-R³⁰;

W is independently selected from the group consisting of -NH-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-N(R³¹)-, -NH-C(O)-N(R³¹)- and -O-C(S)-N(R³¹)-;

R² and R⁶ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁷, R^{3a} and R^{4a} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)(C₁-C₆)alkyl and -C(O)aryl;

R³⁰ is selected from the group consisting of R³²-substituted T, R³²-substituted-T-(C₁-C₆)alkyl, R³²-substituted-(C₂-C₄)alkenyl, R³²-substituted-(C₁-C₆)alkyl, R³²-substituted-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl and R³²-substituted-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R³¹ is selected from the group consisting of H and (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

T is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl and pyridyl;

R³² is independently selected from 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halogeno, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, -OH, phenoxy, -CF₃, -NO₂, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, methylenedioxy, oxo, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfanyl, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfinyl, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfonyl, -N(CH₃)₂, -C(O)-NH(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -C(O)-N((C₁-C₄)alkyl)₂, -C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkoxy and pyrrolidinylcarbonyl; or R³² is a covalent bond and R³¹, the nitrogen to which it is attached and R³² form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methyl-piperazinyl, indolinyl or

M is -O-, -S-, -S(O)- or -S(O)₂-;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -CH(C₁-C₆)alkyl- and -C(di-(C₁-C₆)alkyl);

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -OR¹⁹, -O(CO)R¹⁹, -O(CO)OR²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₅OR¹⁹, -O(CO)NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)OR²¹, -NR¹⁹(CO)NR²⁰R²⁵, -NR¹⁹SO₂R²¹, -COOR¹⁹, -CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -COR¹⁹, -SO₂NR¹⁹R²⁰, S(O)₀₋₂R²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀-COOR¹⁹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-COOR¹⁹, -CH=CH-COOR¹⁹, -CF₃, -CN, -NO₂ and halogen;

R¹⁵ and R¹⁷ are independently selected from the group consisting of -OR¹⁹, -O(CO)R¹⁹, -O(CO)OR²¹ and -O(CO)NR¹⁹R²⁰;

R¹⁶ and R¹⁸ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl and aryl; or R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ together are =O, or R¹⁷ and R¹⁸ together are =O;

d is 1, 2 or 3;

h is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

s is 0 or 1; t is 0 or 1; m, n and p are independently 0-4;

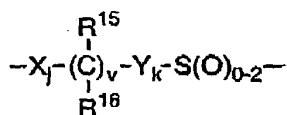
provided that at least one of s and t is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, s and t is 1-6;

provided that when p is 0 and t is 1, the sum of m, s and n is 1-5; and

provided that when p is 0 and s is 1, the sum of m, t and n is 1-5;

v is 0 or 1;

j and k are independently 1-5, provided that the sum of j, k and v is 1-5;



and when Q is a bond and R¹ is $\begin{array}{c} \text{R}^{15} \\ | \\ -\text{X}_j-(\text{C})_v-\text{Y}_k-\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}- \\ | \\ \text{R}^{16} \end{array}$, Ar¹ can also be pyridyl, isoxazolyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl;

R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R²¹ is (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl or R²⁴-substituted aryl;

R²² is H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)R¹⁹ or -COOR¹⁹;

R²³ and R²⁴ are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, -COOH, NO₂, -NR¹⁹R²⁰, -OH and halogeno; and

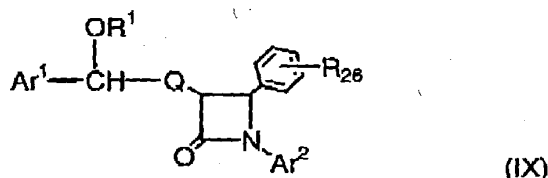
R²⁵ is H, -OH or (C₁-C₆)alkoxy,

wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

82. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of the composition of claim 81.

83. (Original) A composition comprising:

- (a) at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and
- (b) at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (IX):

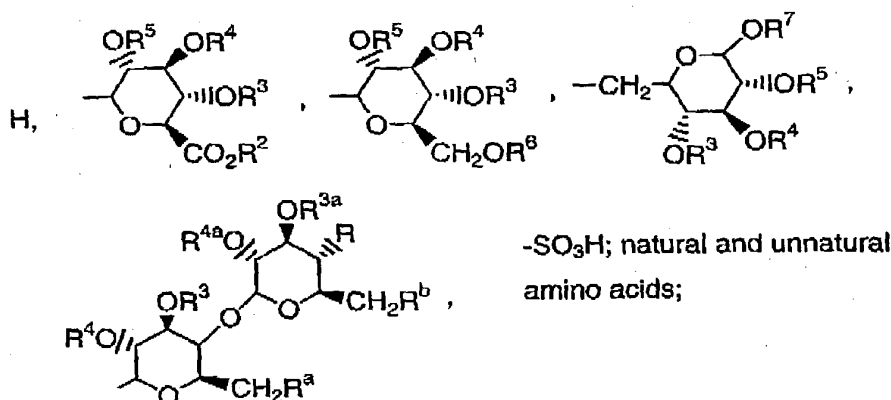


or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (IX) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (IX) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (IX) above,

R²⁶ is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) OH;
- b) OCH₃;
- c) fluorine and
- d) chlorine;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of



R , R^a and R^b are independently selected from the group consisting of H, -OH, halogeno, -NH₂, azido, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy(C₁-C₆)-alkoxy and -W- R^{30} ;

W is independently selected from the group consisting of -NH-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-N(R^{31})-, -NH-C(O)-N(R^{31})- and -O-C(S)-N(R^{31})-;

R^2 and R^6 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^7 , R^{3a} and R^{4a} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)(C₁-C₆)alkyl and -C(O)aryl;

R^{30} is independently selected from the group consisting of R^{32} -substituted T, R^{32} -substituted-T-(C₁-C₆)alkyl, R^{32} -substituted-(C₂-C₄)alkenyl, R^{32} -substituted-(C₁-C₆)alkyl, R^{32} -substituted-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl and R^{32} -substituted-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R^{31} is independently selected from the group consisting of H and (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

T is independently selected from the group consisting of phenyl, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl and pyridyl;

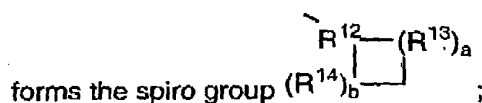
R^{32} is independently selected from 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogeno, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, -OH, phenoxy, -CF₃, -NO₂, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, methylenedioxy, oxo, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfanyl, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfinyl, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfonyl, -N(CH₃)₂, -C(O)-NH(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -C(O)-N((C₁-C₄)alkyl)₂,

-C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkoxy and pyrrolidinylcarbonyl; or R³² is a covalent bond and R³¹, the nitrogen to which it is attached and R³² form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methyl-piperazinyl, indolinyll or morpholinyll group, or a (C₁-C₄)alkoxycarbonyl-substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methylpiperazinyl, indolinyll or morpholinyll group;

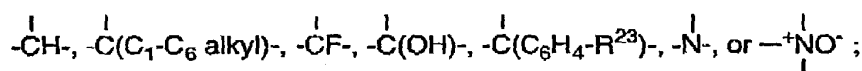
Ar¹ is aryl, R¹⁰-substituted aryl; pyridyl, isoxazolyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl;

Ar² is aryl or R¹¹-substituted aryl;

Q is -(CH₂)_q-, wherein q is 2-6, or, with the 3-position ring carbon of the azetidinone,



R¹² is



R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -CH(C₁-C₆ alkyl)-, -C(di-(C₁-C₆) alkyl)-, -CH=CH- and -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-; or R¹² together with an adjacent R¹³, or R¹² together with an adjacent R¹⁴, form a -CH=CH- or a -CH=C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)- group;

a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R¹³ is -CH=CH- or -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-, a is 1; provided that when R¹⁴ is -CH=CH- or -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-, b is 1; provided that when a is 2 or 3, the R¹³'s can be the same or different; and provided that when b is 2 or 3, the R¹⁴'s can be the same or different;

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -OR¹⁹, -O(CO)R¹⁹, -O(CO)OR²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₅OR¹⁹, -O(CO)NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)OR²¹, -NR¹⁹(CO)NR²⁰R²⁵, -NR¹⁹SO₂R²¹, -COOR¹⁹,

-CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -COR¹⁹, -SO₂NR¹⁹R²⁰, -S(O)₀₋₂R²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀-COOR¹⁹,
-O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-COOR¹⁹, -CH=CH-COOR¹⁹, -CF₃,
-CN, -NO₂ and halogen;

R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R²¹ is (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl or R²⁴-substituted aryl;

R²² is H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)R¹⁹ or -COOR¹⁹;

R²³ and R²⁴ are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, -COOH, NO₂, -NR¹⁹R²⁰, -OH and halogeno; and

R²⁵ is H, -OH or (C₁-C₆)alkoxy.

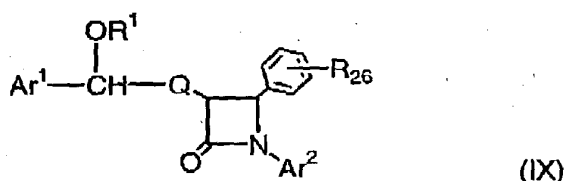
84. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 83 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

85. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment:

(a) an effective amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and

(b) an effective amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by

Formula (IX):

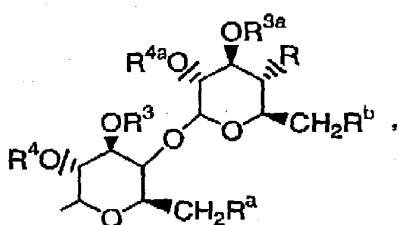
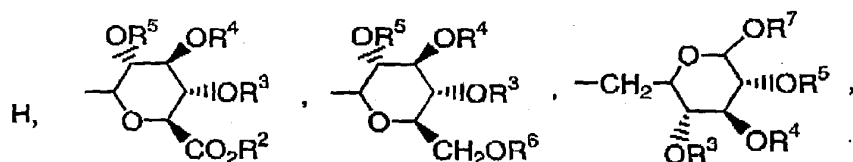


or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (IX) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (IX) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (IX) above,

R^{26} is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) OH;
- b) OCH_3 ;
- c) fluorine and
- d) chlorine;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of



$-SO_3H$; natural and unnatural amino acids;

R , R^a and R^b are independently selected from the group consisting of H, $-OH$, halogeno, $-NH_2$, azido, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy and $-W-R^{30}$;

W is independently selected from the group consisting of $-NH-C(O)-$, $-O-C(O)-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^{31})-$, $-NH-C(O)-N(R^{31})-$ and $-O-C(S)-N(R^{31})-$;

R^2 and R^6 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, aryl and aryl (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^7 , R^{3a} and R^{4a} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, aryl (C_1-C_6) alkyl, $-C(O)(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl and $-C(O)$ aryl;

R³⁰ is independently selected from the group consisting of R³²-substituted T, R³²-substituted-T-(C₁-C₆)alkyl, R³²-substituted-(C₂-C₄)alkenyl, R³²-substituted-(C₁-C₆)alkyl, R³²-substituted-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl and R³²-substituted-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R³¹ is independently selected from the group consisting of H and (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

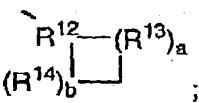
T is independently selected from the group consisting of phenyl, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl and pyridyl;

R³² is independently selected from 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogeno, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, -OH, phenoxy, -CF₃, -NO₂, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, methylenedioxy, oxo, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfanyl, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfinyl, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfonyl, -N(CH₃)₂, -C(O)-NH(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -C(O)-N((C₁-C₄)alkyl)₂, -C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkoxy and pyrrolidinylcarbonyl; or R³² is a covalent bond and R³¹, the nitrogen to which it is attached and R³² form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methyl-piperazinyl, indolyl or morpholyl group, or a (C₁-C₄)alkoxycarbonyl-substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methylpiperazinyl, indolyl or morpholyl group;

Ar¹ is aryl, R¹⁰-substituted aryl; pyridyl, isoxazolyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl;

Ar² is aryl or R¹¹-substituted aryl;

Q is -(CH₂)_q, wherein q is 2-6, or, with the 3-position ring carbon of the azetidinone,

forms the spiro group ;

R¹² is

$\text{—}\overset{|}{\text{CH}}\text{—}$, $\text{—}\overset{|}{\text{C}}(\text{C}_1\text{—C}_6\text{ alkyl})\text{—}$, $\text{—}\overset{|}{\text{CF}}\text{—}$, $\text{—}\overset{|}{\text{C}}(\text{OH})\text{—}$, $\text{—}\overset{|}{\text{C}}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{—R}^{23})\text{—}$, $\text{—}\overset{|}{\text{N}}\text{—}$, or $\text{—}\overset{|}{\text{NO}}\text{—}$;

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-,

-CH(C₁-C₆ alkyl)-, -C(di-(C₁-C₆ alkyl)), -CH=CH- and -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-; or R¹² together with an adjacent R¹³, or R¹² together with an adjacent R¹⁴, form a -CH=CH- or a -CH=C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)- group;

a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R¹³ is -CH=CH- or -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-, a is 1; provided that when R¹⁴ is -CH=CH- or -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-, b is 1; provided that when a is 2 or 3, the R¹³'s can be the same or different; and provided that when b is 2 or 3, the R¹⁴'s can be the same or different;

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -OR¹⁹, -O(CO)R¹⁹, -O(CO)OR²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₅OR¹⁹, -O(CO)NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)OR²¹, -NR¹⁹(CO)NR²⁰R²⁵, -NR¹⁹SO₂R²¹, -COOR¹⁹, -CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -COR¹⁹, -SO₂NR¹⁹R²⁰, -S(O)₀₋₂R²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀-COOR¹⁹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-COOR¹⁹, -CH=CH-COOR¹⁹, -CF₃, -CN, -NO₂ and halogen;

R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R²¹ is (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl or R²⁴-substituted aryl;

R²² is H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)R¹⁹ or -COOR¹⁹;

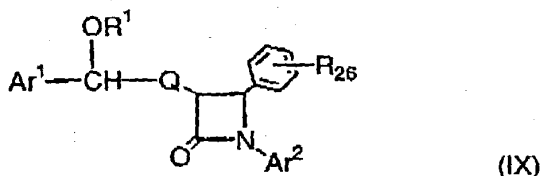
R²³ and R²⁴ are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, -COOH, NO₂, -NR¹⁹R²⁰, -OH and halogeno; and

R²⁵ is H, -OH or (C₁-C₆)alkoxy.

86. (Original) A therapeutic combination comprising:

(a) a first amount of at least one peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor activator; and

(b) a second amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (IX):

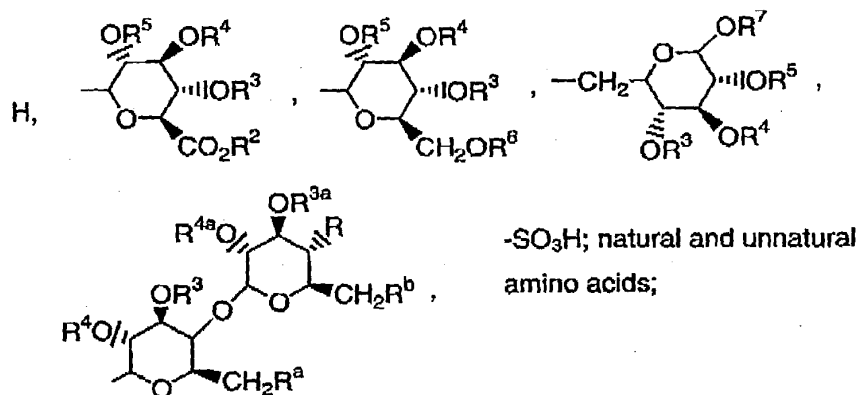


or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (IX) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (IX) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (IX) above,

R²⁶ is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) OH;
- b) OCH₃;
- c) fluorine and
- d) chlorine;

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of



R, R^a and R^b are independently selected from the group consisting of H, -OH, halogeno, -NH₂, azido, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy(C₁-C₆)-alkoxy and -W-R³⁰;

W is independently selected from the group consisting of -NH-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-N(R³¹)-, -NH-C(O)-N(R³¹)- and -O-C(S)-N(R³¹)-;

R² and R⁶ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁷, R^{3a} and R^{4a} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)(C₁-C₆)alkyl and -C(O)aryl;

R³⁰ is independently selected from the group consisting of R³²-substituted T, R³²-substituted-T-(C₁-C₆)alkyl, R³²-substituted-(C₂-C₄)alkenyl, R³²-substituted-(C₁-C₆)alkyl, R³²-substituted-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl and R³²-substituted-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R³¹ is independently selected from the group consisting of H and (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

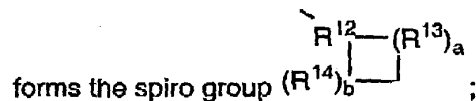
T is independently selected from the group consisting of phenyl, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl and pyridyl;

R³² is independently selected from 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogeno, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, -OH, phenoxy, -CF₃, -NO₂, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, methylenedioxy, oxo, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfanyl, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfinyl, (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfonyl, -N(CH₃)₂, -C(O)-NH(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -C(O)-N((C₁-C₄)alkyl)₂, -C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkoxy and pyrrolidinylcarbonyl; or R³² is a covalent bond and R³¹, the nitrogen to which it is attached and R³² form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methyl-piperazinyl, indolyl or morpholinyl group, or a (C₁-C₄)alkoxycarbonyl-substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methylpiperazinyl, indolyl or morpholinyl group;

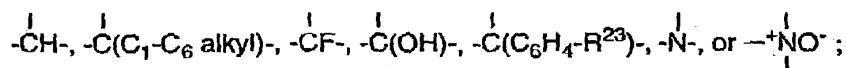
Ar¹ is aryl, R¹⁰-substituted aryl; pyridyl, isoxazolyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl;

Ar² is aryl or R¹¹-substituted aryl;

Q is -(CH₂)_q-, wherein q is 2-6, or, with the 3-position ring carbon of the azetidinone,



R¹² is



R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -CH(C₁-C₆ alkyl)-, -C(di-(C₁-C₆) alkyl)-, -CH=CH- and -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-; or R¹² together with an adjacent R¹³, or R¹² together with an adjacent R¹⁴, form a -CH=CH- or a -CH=C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)- group;

a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R¹³ is -CH=CH- or -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-, a is 1; provided that when R¹⁴ is

-CH=CH- or -C(C₁-C₆ alkyl)=CH-, b is 1; provided that when a is 2 or 3, the R¹³'s can be the same or different; and provided that when b is 2 or 3, the R¹⁴'s can be the same or different;

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -OR¹⁹, -O(CO)R¹⁹, -O(CO)OR²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₅OR¹⁹, -O(CO)NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)R²⁰, -NR¹⁹(CO)OR²¹, -NR¹⁹(CO)NR²⁰R²⁵, -NR¹⁹SO₂R²¹, -COOR¹⁹, -CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -COR¹⁹, -SO₂NR¹⁹R²⁰, -S(O)₀₋₂R²¹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀-COOR¹⁹, -O(CH₂)₁₋₁₀CONR¹⁹R²⁰, -(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-COOR¹⁹, -CH=CH-COOR¹⁹, -CF₃, -CN, -NO₂ and halogen;

R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R²¹ is (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl or R²⁴-substituted aryl;

R²² is H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)R¹⁹ or -COOR¹⁹;

R²³ and R²⁴ are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, -COOH, NO₂, -NR¹⁹R²⁰, -OH and halogeno; and

R²⁵ is H, -OH or (C₁-C₆)alkoxy,

wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

87. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of the composition of claim 86.

88. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising (a) at least one AcylCoA:Cholesterol *O*-acyltransferase Inhibitor and (b) at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof.

89. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising (a) a first amount of at least one AcylCoA:Cholesterol *O*-acyltransferase Inhibitor; and (b) a second amount at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

90. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising (a) probucol or a derivative thereof and (b) at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -

lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof.

91. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising (a) a first amount of probucol or a derivative thereof and (b) a second amount of at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

92. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising (a) at least one low-density lipoprotein receptor activator and (b) at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof.

93. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising (a) a first amount of at least one low-density lipoprotein receptor activator and (b) a second amount of at

least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

94. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising (a) at least one Omega 3 fatty acid and (b) at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof.

95. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising (a) a first amount of at least one Omega 3 fatty acid and (b) a second amount of at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular

condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

96. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising (a) at least one natural water soluble fiber and (b) at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof.

97. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising (a) a first amount of at least one natural water soluble fiber and (b) a second amount of at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

98. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising (a) at least one of plant sterols, plant stanols or fatty acid esters of plant stanols and (b) at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the

isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof.

99. (Withdrawn) A therapeutic combination comprising (a) a first amount of at least one of plant sterols, plant stanols or fatty acid esters of plant stanols and (b) a second amount of at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.

100. (Original) A composition comprising (a) at least one antioxidant or vitamin and (b) at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof.

101. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic combination comprising (a) a first amount of at least one antioxidant or vitamin and (b) a second amount of at least one substituted azetidinone compound or substituted β -lactam compound or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam

compound or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the at least one substituted azetidinone compound or the at least one substituted β -lactam compound or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.